IN THE DRAWINGS:

A Letter to the Official Draftsman is attached with proposed drawing corrections to Figures 1 and 5-7.

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 5-7. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 5-7, replace the original sheets of Figs. 1 and 5-7.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Figures 1 and 5-7 under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The specification was objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because of informalities. Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyake et al. in Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 2003-049949 in view of any one of Shikano in U.S. Patent No. 5,568,341, Ishii et al. in Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 09-282860, or Nakada in Japanese Patent Application No. JP 05-326731. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyake et al. in Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 2003-049949 in view of any one of Shikano in U.S. Patent No. 5,568,341, Ishii et al. in Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 09-282860, or Nakada in Japanese Patent Application No. JP 05-326731 and further in view of Satoh et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,623,684.

In response to the informalities noted by the Examiner, claims 1-5 have been amended and claim 6 has been added. The informalities noted by the Examiner in the §112, second paragraph rejection have been corrected. The "inflection portion" noted by the Examiner are described and illustrated in the drawings as "inflection

portion 10", following the contour of the packing 3 with a curving or a bending as "inflection" is normally defined.

The purpose of JP 2003-049949 is to provide a shape that provides easy compression and low reaction force of a main bead 3 (corresponding to a "lip portion" in the present application). Only the sealing performance is an important function of the gasket which is the focus in JP 2003-049949.

In contrast, the present application gives attention to peeling-off of a gasket from a cover plate, which is a problem to be solved at the next stage to the above. Therefore, the present application differs from JP 2003-049949 in the level of a problem to be solved.

The shape of JP 2003-049949 is the same as the shape illustrated in Fig. 6, which is referred to as prior art in the present application. In JP 2003-049949, there is a packing overhang portion at the side opposite to a lip (right side on drawing) but no packing overhang portion at the side of the lip (left side on drawing).

On the other hand, in the present application, there are packing overhang portions not only at the side opposite to a lip (pouring hole side, right side on the drawing) but also at the side of the lip (left side on the drawing). This is the shape for a solution of the problem to be solved in the present application.

Accordingly, Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2003-049949 does not suggest the shape for a solution of the problem of "peeling-off of a gasket from a cover plate" in the present application.

In U.S. Patent No. 6,623,684 (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-100125) sealing performance is not affected as gates are provided at an outer side of a seal member.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 31, 2006
JLS/arc

FIG. 1

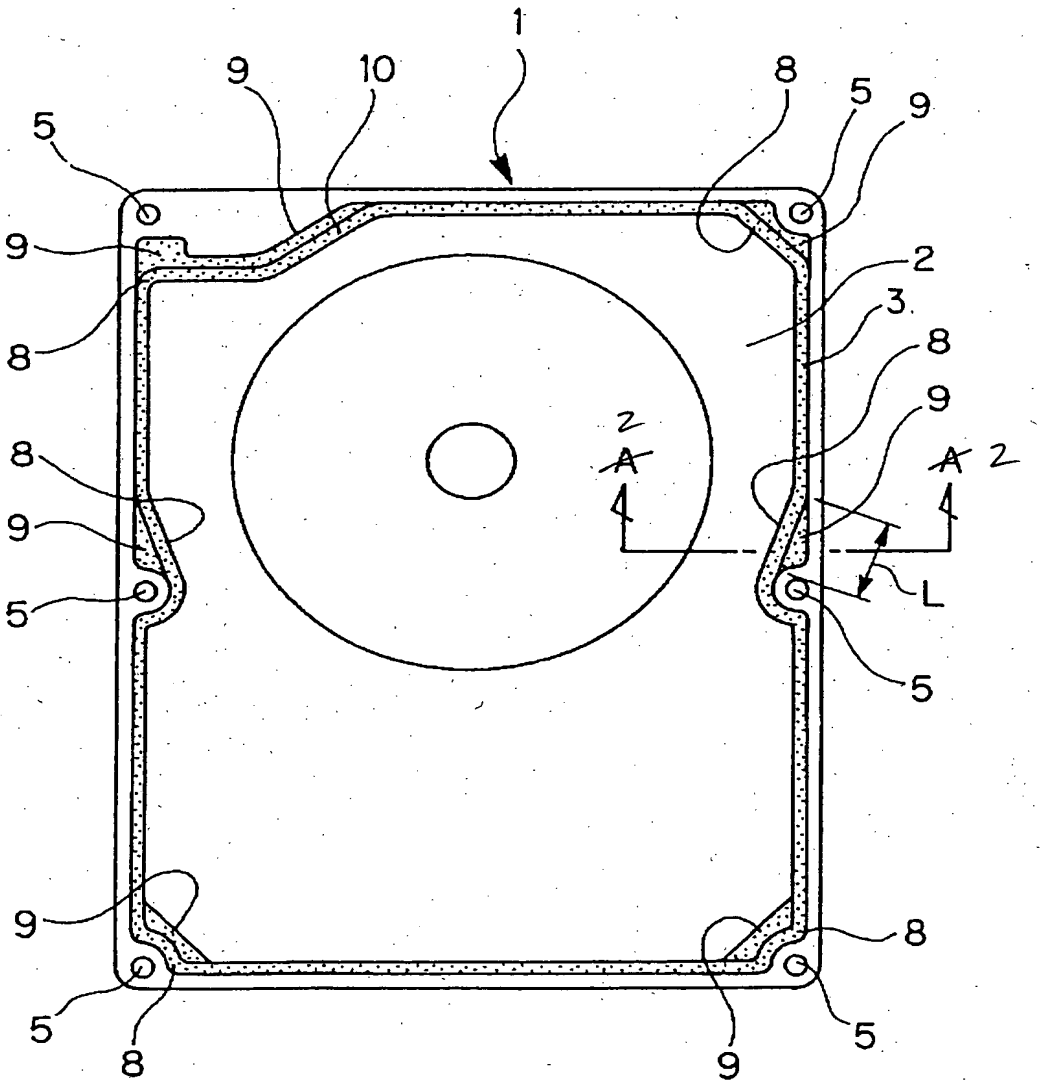
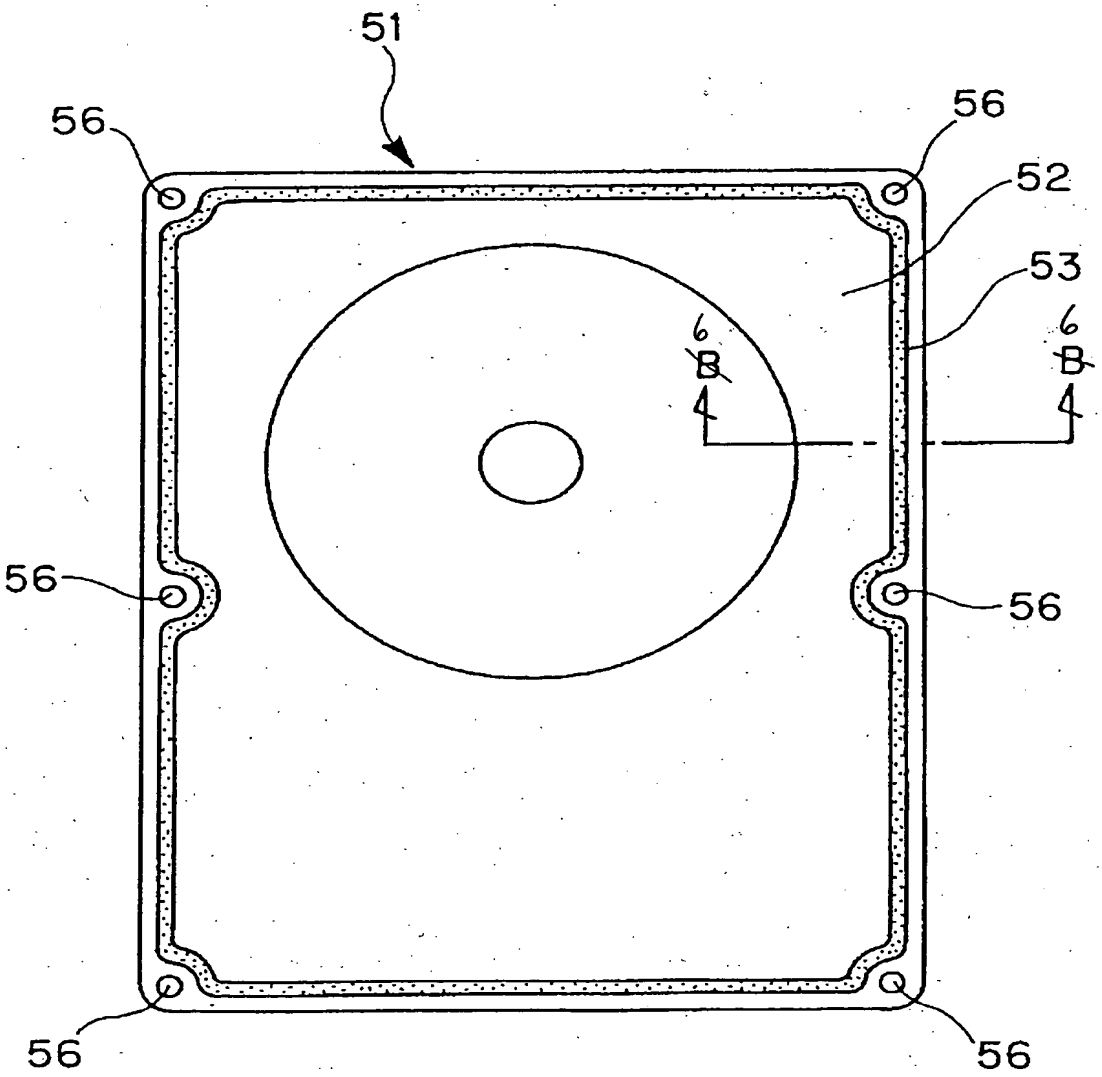
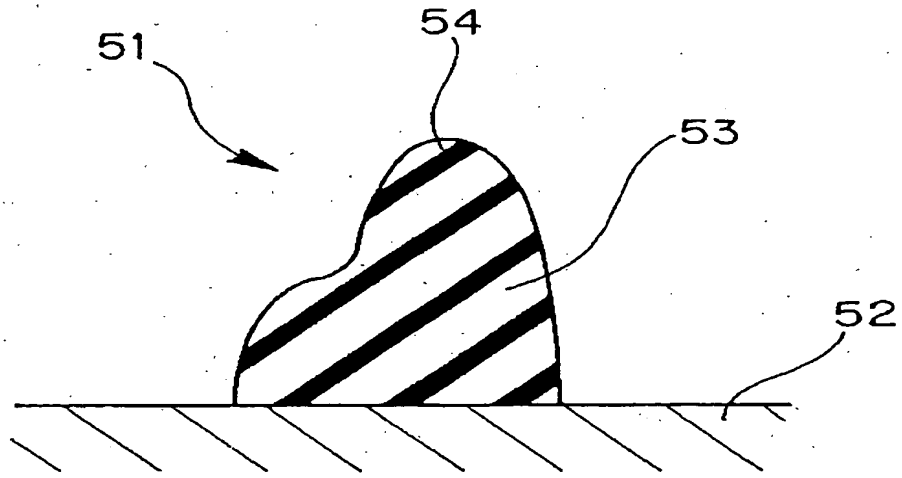


FIG. 5



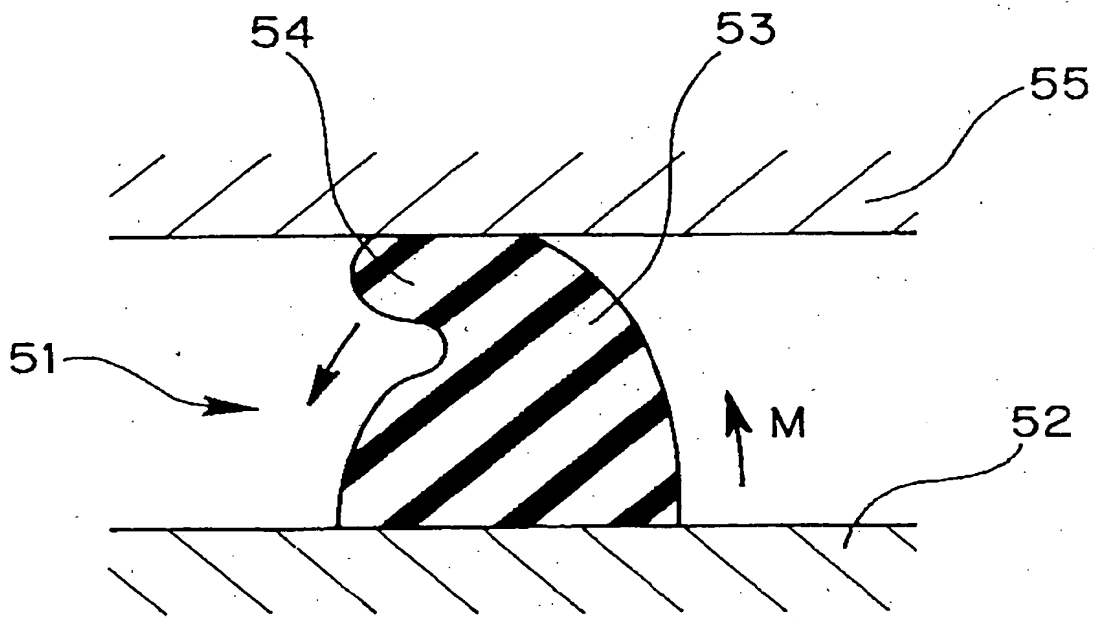
PRIOR ART

FIG. 6



PRIOR ART

FIG. 7



PRIOR ART